

## **Project Childsafe**

The Natural Resources office on Fort Wainwright would like to give you a free gun lock and safety pamphlet to support “Project Childsafe.” Project Childsafe is a nationwide program developed by the National Shooting Sports Foundation and supported by a US. Department of Justice grant to encourage safe and responsible firearms ownership and storage. Why are we giving out free gun locks? Having a firearm in your home, especially if it is not securely stored, creates a significant risk for injury or death for children.

It is estimated that 35% of adults in the United States live in a household with a firearm. Alaska is among several states with the highest percentage of adults with children, keeping firearms loaded and unlocked. The statistics get worse. Each year in the United States there are 32,000 firearm related deaths and 120,000 injuries. The majority of these deaths and injuries occur in the home. The unintentional firearm injury death rate among children ages 14 and under in the United States is nine times higher than in 25 other industrial countries combined. Firearms injuries and deaths among children increase in the summer months when school is out and children are left unattended.

Because of the popularity of firearms, children are likely to encounter them in their lives. Teach your children about firearm safety in much the same way you would teach them about handling matches. Children should be taught if they find a firearm or ammunition they should:

1. Stop-Don't Touch
2. Leave the Area
3. Tell an Adult

Army Regulations require all military members, who own firearms, to store them unloaded and ammunition is required to be stored in a locked container. Always store your firearm in a locked draw, safe or cabinet.

Other steps you should take to ensure firearm safety include:

- Use a cable lock as recommended by the manufacturer
- Make sure your children do not have access to keys or combination to your locks or cabinets
- Teach your children to not handle firearms without adult supervision.

Another good reason to stop by and get a free gun lock and secure your firearm safely is the fact 500,000 firearms are stolen each year from private owners. Practice safe and secure firearm storage and teach your children firearm safety. A great summer educational activity for the family is taking a Hunter Education Class. For more information contact the Alaska Department of Fish and Game at 452-6862 or on line at [www.huntereducation.alaska.gov](http://www.huntereducation.alaska.gov).

You can pick up free gun locks at Fort Wainwright Natural Resources located at 3023 Engineer Place. If you would like information about outdoor recreation on military lands contact your Army Natural Resource Office on Ft. Wainwright 361-6490, Ft. Richardson 384-3909 and Donnelly Training Area 873-1615 or visit their website at [www.usarak.army.mil/conservation](http://www.usarak.army.mil/conservation).